

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. The title has been amended. The specification has also been amended. No new matter has been added.

The title of the invention was objected to because it was not descriptive. The title has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

The specification was objected to due to various informalities. These informalities have been corrected, and withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Claims 4-9 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawatsu, U.S. Patent No. 6,929,256, in view of Gray, U.S. Patent No. 5,364,332. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

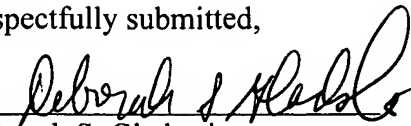
Applicant respectfully submits that Kuwatsu is not a valid reference under 35 USC 103(a). The filing date of Kawatsu is August 29, 2003. The foreign priority date claimed in this application is March 13, 2003, which is before the filing date of the cited reference. Applicant hereby submits a verified translation of the Japanese application 2003-067752 to perfect the claim for foreign priority. Applicant thereby requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772036000.

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Respectfully submitted,

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